



THE DUNCAN RECORD:

HELPING PEOPLE, BUILDING COMMUNITIES

PUTTING EDUCATION FIRST

- With the largest and most diverse public school system in the state, Duncan's educational reform efforts are closing the minority achievement gap and have resulted in the highest SAT scores in over 30 years.
- Every County high school was named to *Newsweek Magazine's* top three percent of schools in the country.
- More than two-thirds of high school students are enrolled in Honors or AP courses.
- Record numbers of middle school students are enrolled in algebra or higher math.
- Duncan spearheaded early childhood programs to reduce class sizes, provide extra reading help and implement full-day kindergarten throughout the County. The result?— an across the board increase in grade level reading for kindergarteners and 4th grade record highs on Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills.
- Duncan's vision for higher education means Montgomery County has the most educated workforce in the U.S.
- Duncan's support has boosted Montgomery College's national rankings.
- Duncan spurred expansion of the Takoma Park and Germantown campuses.
- Duncan's efforts have led to the College's High Technology and Science Center, Information Technology Institute, and the Health Sciences Center.
- He supported the Universities at Shady Grove campus to provide four-year and advanced degrees in the County.
- Duncan's work with Johns Hopkins University led to increased enrollment at the Montgomery County campus to 5,000 students.

HELPING PEOPLE

- Under Duncan's health care initiative, 2,000 uninsured children and 10,000 adults are receiving affordable health care, while working men and women are benefiting from a living wage law and the first-in-the-nation local earned income tax credit.
- A campaign initiated by Duncan resulted in enrollment of a record number of children in the Maryland Children's health Insurance Program.
- Duncan opened three school-based health centers in elementary schools with a high proportion of low-income students and provided the funding to expand school health room staffing to cover every public school.
- To eliminate health disparities among minority residents, Duncan supported community-based initiatives targeted to African American, Latino and Asian American residents.
- Duncan created the first dedicated affordable housing fund in the Washington region, and has been a leader in preserving affordable housing for hard-working families.
- To combat rising health care costs, Duncan implemented, MontgomeryRx, the first of its kind in the state, a discount prescription drug card plan that saved residents over \$2.6 million in the first year. He has also fought for a federal waiver to re-import Canadian drugs to bring costs down.





BUILDING COMMUNITIES

- Since Duncan was elected in 1994, 92,000 jobs have been created in Montgomery County – an increase of nearly 22 percent. The unemployment rate has gone down a full percentage point and is the lowest in Maryland.
- Duncan's effort in downtown Silver Spring to combat blight and revitalize an inner-beltway urban center is a national model for smart growth redevelopment. Nearly \$2 billion in private and public sector investment is taking place in an area that only a few years ago most people were ready to write off.
- Duncan's vision has also led to the revitalization of Rockville, Bethesda, Gaithersburg and Germantown town centers. And in Wheaton, a more than \$100 million investment is under way.
- Duncan's push for public/private partnerships resulted in the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center which, in its first year, brought the County more than \$2 million in profit. Through another partnership, he created the Economic Development Fund, which has invested \$15.4 million in more than 150 companies.
- Under Duncan's leadership, Montgomery County's I-270 corridor was dubbed "DNA Alley" by *Time Magazine* – with the County becoming one of the largest biotechnology centers in the country.
- Duncan created the Montgomery County Business Incubator Network to help small and start-up companies. The program has graduated more than 30 companies, all of which remain in the County, employing over 1,100 people and generating over \$1.4 million.

PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY

- Duncan has worked to increase public safety spending by 145 percent since coming into office.
- Duncan created the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees and coordinates all security functions and ensures that first responders are prepared, equipped and ready to answer the call when needed.
- Putting more than 200 new police officers on the streets to date, Duncan implemented a new five-year staffing plan for the Police Department that will add another 250 officers. These officers will work in such fields as gang prevention, homeland security, terrorism and traffic.
- Mobile data terminals are now installed in all public safety vehicles; automatic vehicle locators are in use, and computer-aided 9-1-1 dispatch and computerized mapping systems enable better coordination and integration of the County's emergency response capabilities and records management.
- Duncan funded 32 educational facilities officers to serve as public safety liaisons with all public and private schools in the County. The officers are trained in emergency preparedness, crisis management and problem solving.
- Gang prevention efforts initiated by Duncan include a new Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator; the allocation of \$4 million to the Montgomery County Public Schools to expand middle school programs, enlarge evening high school offerings, and train staff to help at-risk youth; promotion of community activities; and a new bi-County Task Force to curb gang violence.
- Duncan's reorganization of Montgomery County's Fire and Rescue Service provides a more unified command and control structure which, for the first time, includes a uniformed County Fire Chief to administer, direct and organize fire and rescue operations for both the career and volunteer staffs. The service is a full spectrum life safety agency that protects nearly 1 million people who live and work in Maryland's most populous jurisdiction.
- In the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, Duncan increased staffing to address round-the-clock staffing needs, enhance security, manage caseloads in the Pre-Trial Services and the Pre-Release Center, and address increasing medical service demands at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.
- Under Duncan's leadership, Montgomery County invested in pedestrian safety with new cross-walk technology, bus stop placements and community outreach campaigns to remind pedestrians and drivers to use caution and watch out for each other.
- Duncan opened a special Adult and Juvenile Drug Court designed to handle cases involving drug-addicted offenders. With a modern approach, the drug court offers more than prison or diversion programs, providing rehabilitation coupled with sanctions and rewards to make drug treatment services more effective.
- Public safety enhancements also include the criminal justice behavioral health initiative, which added a pilot housing program for mentally-ill offenders returning to the community and expanded the assertive community treatment team.



IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION

- During Duncan's term, the County added nearly 50 miles of new highways; constructed 30 miles of bike paths; replaced or rehabilitated 27 bridges; added 75 miles of new sidewalks and more than 2,000 curb-ramps; improved 12 key intersections; and built two new transit centers and a Park-and-Ride facility.
- After 15 years of study, debate, and delay, Duncan got construction of the Montrose Parkway underway – the most important local congestion relief project in Montgomery County, and the largest road project in County history.
- As an early advocate for the Inter-County Connector (ICC), Duncan has also been an advocate for road construction that incorporates environmentally sensitive construction techniques.
- Duncan created Renew Montgomery, a comprehensive program that invested \$33.5 million in improving and upgrading the infrastructure of older neighborhoods.
- The County's \$33 million Advanced Transportation Management System was one of the first in the nation to proactively manage traffic flow.
- Montgomery County – under Duncan's leadership – has built one of the nation's largest local bus systems. More than 27 million passengers a year board the Ride On bus system, an increase of more than 50 percent over the past decade. One hundred percent of the Ride On fleet is accessible to persons with disabilities. His innovative programs to increase transit use include free rides for kids, college students, County employees, and seniors.

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

- Duncan is committed to making the face of government truly representative of the community it serves, with minorities making up 25 percent and women making up 44 percent of his management team.
- The Duncan administration awarded 21 percent of procurement contracts, more than \$500 million, to minority, female and disabled (MFD) firms.
- Minority firms were awarded more than \$1 million in loans or grants through the County's small business development programs.
- Nearly 45 percent of the tenants in Montgomery County business incubators are minority-owned firms.
- Duncan established the Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity, which provides coordination and services to the County's minority and immigrant population.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

- Duncan has turned a once sleepy, bedroom suburb into a regional cultural arts center. Since taking office, the cultural arts community in Montgomery County has grown to include more than 300 organizations with a total attendance over 1.2 million, and an economic impact estimated at more than \$45 million annually.
- Duncan increased arts funding ten fold, from \$300,000 to \$3 million annually.
- Among his many accomplishments in support of the arts are the renovation of the Silver Theatre, East Coast headquarters of the American Film Institute; new children's theater for Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts Imagination Stage; Black Rock Center for the Arts; renovation of Glen Echo Park; new and renovated spaces for Olney Theater Center; renovation of Liz Lerman Dance Exchange; three new homes for Round House Theatre; new home for Pyramid Atlantic; and the 2,000 seat new Music Center at Strathmore concert hall.
- Duncan created the Partnership Grants for the Arts program, a public/private partnership that contributed \$3.7 million last year in private donations to fund arts and recreation programs.
- Duncan was honored for his leadership and commitment to promoting the cultural arts by the Americans for the Arts and the National Association of Counties 2003 County Arts Leadership Award.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, Montgomery County has the nation's most successful farmland and open space preservation program. Under Duncan's leadership, the County has permanently protected more than 61,000 acres of farmland.
- Duncan established the first "Code Red/Ride Free" policy in the region, offering free bus trips during the worst ozone days and challenging others to follow suit.
- Under Duncan's leadership, Montgomery County made the largest local purchase of wind energy in the nation, and recently increased the amount the County is purchasing to 10 percent of energy needs.
- To reduce air emissions from County-owned vehicles, Duncan started an aggressive program to acquire a multi-technology fleet of alternative-fueled buses and vehicles with about 100 Compressed Natural Gas vehicles, 100 ethanol/gasoline vehicles, eight hybrid-electric cars and five hybrid-electric buses.
- With a commitment to help save the Chesapeake Bay, Duncan has overseen the clean up of thirty miles of streams and waterways, and has led the fight to crack down on pollution-causing power plants.





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**Helping People
Supporting the Arts
Embracing Diversity
Building Communities
Putting Education First
Protecting Public Safety
Improving Transportation
Protecting the Environment**



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